

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1 and 2 are pending, with Claim 1 being independent. Claims 4 and 17 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claim 1 has been amended to, among other changes, include the features of Claim 17.

Claim 17 was objected to and indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1, 2, and 4 yet again were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over US 2003/0039455 A1 (Ouchi, et al.) (EP 1 286 194 A2 and US 6,829,398 B2). Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite. All objections and rejections are respectfully traversed, and are submitted to have been obviated by the incorporation into Claim 1 of objected-to Claim 17, with additional amendments believed to obviate the 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, grounds of rejection, viz, the objected-to language has been deleted.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

REQUEST FOR ENTRY OF AMENDMENT

This Amendment After Final Rejection is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that a full appreciation of these amendments will not require undue time or effort given the Examiner's familiarity with this

application. Moreover, this Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicant earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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